

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116, to cancel rejected claims and to rewrite objected-to claims in independent form. In particular, claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 27 stand rejected and are hereby canceled. Claims 3-11, 14 and 23 stand objected-to as being dependent upon rejected-to independent claims; claims 3-6, 10-11, 14 and 23 are thus hereby rewritten in independent form (claims 7-9 depend from now independent claim 6 and are not therefore rewritten in independent form). No new matter is added.

Claims 15-22, 26 are allowable and remain unchanged.

With the enclosed amendments, claims 3-11, 14, 15-22, 23 and 26 are in the case, of which claims 3-6, 10-11, 14, 15 and 23 are independent. This is therefore a total of 9 independent claims. An additional 6 independent claims were paid for in the response of March 2, 2004; therefore no additional fees are deemed necessary (this response is filed within three months of the final action). It is believed no additional fees are due. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Formal figures, including formal corrected drawings from October 30, 2002, are attached. Missing figures 44-45 are included (inadvertently omitted in the March 2, 2004 response, as noted in the March 19, 2004 advisory action). Acceptance of the enclosed figures is requested.

Date: 4/6/04

Respectfully submitted,

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